

Walker 851

[Chapter 851 - Getting Answers](#)

Lin Mu had been listening to Ku Waowen and memorizing all the information to his best. His control of spirit Qi had returned, as well as the formation array restricting him had stopped working with Ku Waowen getting all but crippled.

He thus took out a jade slip and recorded all that she was saying in it. He knew that in his current state, his mind was unstable and he might not remember everything, thus he let it be recorded.

In fact, Lin Mu didn't even know what had happened to him. He hadn't got the chance to check himself and now needed to focus on the Old woman in front of him. He was doing his best to make sure his mind was as controlled as it could be.

But that was a mountainous task for him.

"What exactly is the inheritance here?" Lin Mu questioned next.

~gulp~

Ku Waowen swallowed the saliva in her mouth, to calm her dry throat, though it wasn't as useful as she thought. Gritting her teeth for a moment, she started to answer.

'This discomfort is better than getting my bones crushed by him.' She reckoned.

"We don't know which expert the inheritance originally belongs to as it has existed here for thousands of years. While it was considered that the number of Immortal Ascension cultivators was well known in the past, it was not so.

There were actually a few that kept out of conflicts and stayed in seclusion the entire time. For all we know, it could be someone that broke through and decided to stay hidden the entire time, but then ended up reaching the end of their life and made a tomb to keep their inheritance.

The one thing Ancestor Kushao did inform us about was that the tomb was rather strange with the type of beasts that it had. They couldn't be controlled at all and grew strong at a rapid speed.

This made him wonder how it was possible, and he wanted to get to the bottom of it. He discovered that there was a source hidden in the bottom most layer of the tomb. It was behind the beast's growing strong and also powered the entire tomb.

He couldn't unearth it, as it was hidden behind a dense formation array that might collapse the entire place if he prodded it too much. Thus, instead of doing anything to the source itself, he redirected the energy that rose from it and used it to power a teleportation array.

He spent centuries building it and used up a majority of the fortune he had gathered in doing it. Finally in the end, he completed it and returned to the Northern tribes." Ku Waowen explained.

"He actually returned? He's alive?" Lin Mu asked, feeling shocked.

He had thought that the man was dead the entire time.

"This was a secret kept by the higher ups of the tribe and the juniors don't know that he did. But while he did return to the tribe, he did not live for long. Just two years after he returned, he died due to a strange illness that had spread to him.

All that we got from him was that it was something in this tomb that had led to him getting sick like that. It was also him that warned us not to go into the lowest floor until we were fully prepared, or we would suffer the same thing.

That was why in all these years we did not use the Teleportation array. We needed to wait for a time when our alliance was strong enough to claim the empire." Ku Waowen answered.

Hearing this Lin Mu furrowed his brows.

'Something that can make a Dao Treading realm cultivator like him sick? Not poisoned but sick... that's strange.' Lin Mu thought.

"What was Kushao's cultivation base before his death?" Lin Mu asked for clarification.

"He was at the very peak of the Dao Treading realm. Everyone was sure that he would reach the Immortal Ascension realm, as he was not that old either, being just above two thousand years old.

But then his death was a tragedy for us and also alarmed us about the sickness. If it could kill a talented expert like him, then others would probably die way easily." She replied.

Lin Mu thought for a bit before asking more questions.

"What of these strange beasts? What do you know about them?" He questioned.

"We don't know much about them either, other than the fact that they grow very rapidly. They can reach the Dao Shell realm in less than five hundred years. They don't have Dantians or normal meridians, but just a strange crystal that acts as a vessel.

After they die, their bodies don't last for a long time either. If the crystal is removed, the speed is increased exponentially and the body will decompose in less than a day." Ku Waowen answered.

Hearing this, Lin Mu furrowed his brows and looked into the ring. In there, he got his confirmation.

'It really is decomposing... this is very fast.' Lin Mu said, seeing the hundreds of corpses that he had in there.

This was strange as in the ring usually things didn't decompose easily. Lin Mu had a lot of other beast corpses in it that were the same as the day he put them in there.

'Seems like their bodies are far too different. Those crystals are the main thing that allows them to exist and provides them power. Plus, if they can grow to the Dao Shell realm in less than five hundred years, it is a terrifying situation.' Lin Mu thought.

"Why did the tomb hide away after appearing for years before the incidence five hundred years ago?" Lin Mu questioned.

"While we don't know the exact answer for that, over the years, we assumed that the beasts were behind it. The tomb does not open up so that one can get the inheritance in it, but rather to let out the beasts.

The tomb basically appears when the number of beasts in it reaches a high enough number.." Ku Waowen answered, clearing Lin Mu's doubt.

[Chapter 852 - Crippled!](#)

Hearing that the tomb's appearance depended on the number of beasts made Lin Mu think of something he had read in the Lost Immortal's memoirs.

'Perhaps this is not even an inheritance ground...' Lin Mu thought as his brows furrowed.

Ku Waowen felt a bit scared as she couldn't tell what Lin Mu was feeling from his expression. Each change in his expression seemed angry or ferocious to her in this form, and there was nothing she could perceive.

She could only hope that he wouldn't rip her head off in anger randomly. After about a minute of silence, Lin Mu asked another question, this time a very important one.

"What of the teleportation array? How was it made and where is it located?" Lin Mu questioned.

"The Teleportation array... it is in the level below us. But to get there, I need to unseal the entrance first. But doing that would take a long time on my own, thus I was going to use the cultivation bases and souls of others that would enter the tomb as a sacrificial fuel.

As for how it's made, I do not know. It was made by ancestor Kushao and links to the main teleportation array in the grand capital of the tribal alliance." Ku Waowen answered promptly.

Having heard this, Lin Mu understood that he would have to see the array himself to get a better idea of it. But doing that with Ku Waowen here would be problematic, not to mention he needed to figure out what was happening to himself as well.

He thus stepped towards Ku Waowen, who trembled on the ground.

"W-what, do you want?" Ku Waowen asked, feeling scared.

But Lin Mu did not answer her, instead, he simply thrust one of his claws into her abdomen.

"AHHHHHHH!" Ku Waowen cried out in pain.

The pain she felt this time was worse than before, and she felt terrified at what Lin Mu had just done.

"MY DANTIAN! YOU CRIPPLED IT!" She yelled.

Right away, spirit Qi started to leak out of Ku Waowen's wound and her cultivation base started to fall. But before it could progress anymore, Lin Mu stuffed a pill into Ku Waowen's mouth.

~SHUA~

The pill immediately melted and showed its effects. The medicinal properties spread around her body, regardless of the fact that her meridians were not exactly in the proper condition and her cultivation base now was useless.

Her arm that Lin Mu had ripped out healed over but did not grow back. Only the skin stopped bleeding and a thick scab formed. Her legs on the other hand, healed fully and her bones were mended.

The same could be said for the other minor wounds she had sustained, along with the stab wound in her abdomen. It closed up as well and the spirit Qi stopped leaking from it.

Ku Waowen found the pain from her body fading away, though the loss of her Dantian was still there. She felt confused and sad at this as she looked at Lin Mu.

'That should keep her from dying and also prevent her from doing anything.' Lin Mu thought.

He knew that even if Ku Waowen's Dao Shell was shattered, she still had the power of a Shell initiation stage Dao Shell realm expert at that point. She could still cause unnecessary problems once her condition got a little better.

He didn't want anything untoward to happen, thus took this decision. But, on the other hand, crippling her Dantian meant that her cultivation would regress and she would not cultivate ever again.

This also meant that once she lost sufficient of her cultivation base, she would die. Lin Mu couldn't let that happen either as there was a lot more information they needed to extract from her, thus healing her with a Four Vessels Restoration pill.

It was the perfect pill for it as it could heal physical wounds, but was unable to heal the Dantian.

Lin Mu could see Ku Waowen staring at him with eyes filled with despair and dead. He then took out another pill and stuffed it into her mouth again. As soon as she ate the pill, it made her fall asleep.

"The Deep Somnolence Pill should be enough to keep her asleep for a while. I can deal with other things in this time..." Lin Mu muttered to himself.

With Ku Waowen taken care of for a while, Lin Mu checked his own condition. His spirit sense scanned every inch of his body and let him know what had happened.

"This... is certainly not what I expected... that pattern and the shape... The Great Slumber Bear's bloodline?" Lin Mu recognized.

The Volume of Lin Mu's body had increased by several times and had led him to become a small giant. While he was not as tall as a Great Slumber Bear, he was still four meters tall, which was quite a lot for a human.

If... he could even be called that at this point. His skin, hair, and nails all pointed to him not being a normal human at this point. The same could be said for his facial components as well.

Lin Mu looked down at his hands with sharp nails and didn't know what to do about himself.

"How... how do I return to my normal self now? Is it even possible?" Lin Mu questioned himself.

Due to his thoughts being a bit muddled and slow, he didn't remember the solution that he had already found a long time ago. But after about half an hour of thinking, he finally recalled it.

"Of course! The Calming heart sutra helped with the effects of the Burning heart sutra earlier, thus it should work with this too. After all, this was due to it as well." Lin Mu said to himself, feeling a bit happy.

Though he was still not fully sure if it would work. After all, the current effect of the Burning heart Sutra was way beyond what it had shown before.. It almost felt like an entirely different technique now.

[Chapter 853 - Understanding The New Form And Returning](#)

Lin Mu was currently sitting down cross legged in the hall. His lips lightly moved as he chanted the Calming heart sutra in a low voice.

He was trying to see if the sutra could return his body to the normal again. He chanted the Calming Heart sutra for about an hour before he could feel any effect. At first, the change was very minor and unnoticeable.

But in just five more minutes, it was rapidly increasing. Lin Mu's body started to shrink and his skin color returned to normal. His nails retracted and became the usual white-pink color while his fangs changed to normal teeth.

His eye's also changed back to the usual black color and his muscles nearly returned to their original mass. After about an hour, Lin Mu had mostly returned to his normal looks, though his body still seemed a bit bigger than before.

Namely, his muscles that were far bulkier than before. He was more on the slender side before, but now he was a bit buffer. Though this was more noticeable right now, since his body was bare.

The top half of his robes had been torn and only his legs and waist had managed to keep their shape. Lin Mu looked at his body and saw that the few injuries he had before had healed over as well.

Though along with this, he got a different feeling as well.

"The hunger... it is returning..." Lin Mu muttered as he felt his stomach signaling to him.

He was a bit worried about it as he knew this would not be the normal hunger he had. It would be the painful starving hunger that he got a couple of times before. It was a very difficult state to be in and made thinking difficult.

'It's still a while away, but I'll need to deal with it soon enough.' Lin Mu thought.

He was also estimating just how much the transformation had taken out of him if it had drained all the vitality and nutrients that had been stored in the past year or so. Lin Mu had eaten a lot of beasts and herbs that contained copious amounts of vital energy.

It was that which assisted in his transformation along with healing his wounds. Technically, Lin Mu had eaten several hundred times his body mass in spirit beast meat. But even then, the entire store had been consumed in that single transformation.

"Will this be the normal now? Can I transform back into it or not..." Lin Mu wondered.

And just as he said this, another voice was heard.

"Finally! I can contact you again." Xukong spoke out loud.

"Senior?" Lin Mu responded. "What happened?" he asked.

"Your state was unstable and our link was suppressed. I couldn't contact you, no matter how much I tried. That state you were in... it was overflowing with malice. Your thoughts kept on spilling into the common mind space, but I couldn't talk to you at all.

It was like swimming against the river current, and your thoughts were the river." Xukong replied.

"I... I didn't know that." Lin Mu muttered.

"It was certainly unexpected, but it did lead to some gains for you." Xukong stated.

"I guess it did. But this form... it does not seem safe." Lin Mu said with concern.

"Perhaps now it is like that but once you gain a better understanding of it, you will not feel like that." Xukong replied.

"Hopefully it is as you say, senior. But the change in the burning heart sutra... It wasn't like this before." Lin Mu said feeling doubtful.

"When you used it, I could feel the aura of the Demonic path in the ring again. There were even hints of some Demonic Qi back then. I reckon it triggered the same strength increase you normally have, but due to the furious state you were in, it increased it even more.

But then the bloodline of the Great Slumber Bear interfered. After all, when you were being suppressed, the effect reached all the way to the bloodline. This only infuriated the bloodline aspect and made it awaken.

It is not something that should be possible for a human most of the time but it did for you. And when it did, it responded to the call of the Demonic path, letting to transform further and amplify the strength to a previously unseen level." Xukong explained his interpretation.

Lin Mu thought over Senior Xukong's words and found them to be making sense.

"So the Burning heart sutra can do more than just the normal strength increase... though it is certainly reliant on the vital essence rather than spirit Qi. Maybe my increase in body cultivation also influenced this new form." Lin Mu guessed.

"That is very likely. And if it really follows this, then you may see more changes the further your body cultivation increases." Xukong agreed.

"Hmm... it is really powerful. But the cost of using it is also dangerous. Losing control of myself in the middle of a fight isn't necessarily good. It could only lead to more problems." Lin Mu said after thinking for a bit.

"That's correct, and it's exactly why you need to gain control over it. Once you have that, you won't need to be worried about it at all." Xukong added.

Having understood this now, Lin Mu decided to call the others. He still needed to explore the rest of the tomb and see what was hidden there. Plus, he needed someone to keep an eye over the old woman as well.

Lin Mu could only hope to extract as much information as they could from the old woman. He knew that with her ranking; she had most, if not all information about the northern tribes and their plan.

But Lin Mu didn't call them right then and there. First, he meditated and made sure his condition was fully normal and changed into a new pair of robes. While he knew he could trust his companions, he reckoned it was still better if he didn't let others find out about his transformation.

~Sigh~

He let out a deep sigh before returning to the third floor.

[Chapter 854 - Concern And The Final Floor](#)

"It's been a day. Will senior Lin Mu be fine?" One of the Noon Grass sect's disciples questioned.

"He should be fine. If anything happened to him, we would know." Jing Luo replied.

He then looked at Little Shrubby, who was staring at the staircase from the start.

"But those tremors before. It felt like something big happened." Another disciple expressed his concern.

"Maybe he needs our help?" Another one asked.

"Yeah! We should head down to check!"

"We can't leave him alone when he helped all of us so many times."

One by one, the disciples spoke out.

"No, we won't until we know for sure." Jing Luo stated.

"He's fine isn't he?" He questioned Little Shrubby.

The beast who had been worried about his master looked at the man he didn't particularly like and stared silently at him.

"You can sense him, right? Tell us if he's fine." Jing Luo questioned.

"GRR!" Little Shrubby growled lightly in response.

"I'll take that as if he's okay?" Jing Luo asked to be sure, to which Little Shrubby nodded his head.

"Good! We wait then." Jing Luo stated.

The disciples couldn't protest now and could only listen to Jing Luo and wait. Elder Weimin had heard everything but did not interfere. He could understand the disciples' concern and knew that they were only thinking well of Lin Mu.

Rather than Lin Mu, he was more concerned about Elder Liqiang right now. Despite having his injuries healed, the man had not woken up yet.

'We need to get him back to the sect as soon as possible.' Elder Weimin thought to himself.

A few minutes later, Jing Luo and the rest heard some steps behind them and immediately became alert. Little Shrubby's ears perked up and it sniffed the air. A second later, his expression eased up and he knew who had appeared.

~step~step~step~

Lin Mu gazed at everyone staring at him intently and didn't know what to think of it.

"Everything fine?" He questioned.

"S-Senior Lin Mu!" The disciples shouted out in a concerned tone.

"Are you okay? It took you longer than I thought it would take." Jing Luo asked as well.

Little Shrubby, on the other hand, simply approached Lin Mu and nuzzled against him. He could feel a little change in Lin Mu but could not tell exactly what.

~Sigh~

Lin Mu could only sigh in response to their questions before shaking his head.

"It will be easier to just show you all." Lin Mu stated. "Follow me." He ordered.

Jing Luo and the rest nodded before following behind him. A couple of disciples put the unconscious Elder Liqiang on a stretcher and carried him at the back. They reached the next floor soon and saw the scene of devastation.

~Gasp~

"What happened!?" A few disciples couldn't help but shout out in shock.

Jing Luo and Elder Weimin though scanned the hall for the one person of interest. Who they soon found lying on the ground some distance away.

"You fought with that old woman?" Jing Luo questioned with raised brows.

"Mmm, I did." Lin Mu nodded his head.

"I thought you were just going to observe her first." Elder Weimin asked.

"Things changed." Lin Mu simply responded.

But he could see that they all had a lot of questions and that they would not be satisfied by just this.

"Let me tell you what happened then..." Lin Mu said before starting the series of events that took place.

The more they heard, the more shocked they got. They couldn't even imagine Lin Mu would defeat a Shell Expansion Stage Dao Shell realm expert like this. Both Jing Luo and Elder Weimin knew what that entailed.

But what they were more shocked hearing was the truth about the ruins, as well as how the Northern Tribes had fooled all the sects. It was a terrifying revelation, and they finally understood just how much of a danger the Great Zhou Empire truly was in.

Lin Mu kept some things from them though, that he thought shouldn't be spread to others. These things just pertained to him and were not something that would cause problems if they were hidden.

He also avoided saying the finer details of the battle which both Elder Weimin and Jing Luo picked up on. Though they knew better to speak about it, as they understood everyone had their secrets.

'All that matters now is that she won't be a problem anymore.' Elder Weimin thought.

'Did grandfather know he would reach this point one day?' Jing Luo wondered.

About an hour later, Lin Mu was finally done explaining everything and took a deep breath.

"I need to check what exists beneath this floor. It is likely to be key to the mystery of the tomb and there is a great chance the teleportation array is behind it as well." Lin Mu stated.

"Of course. Do you need help with the formation array?" Jing Luo asked.

"No... we don't have time for the conventional approach." Lin Mu said as he recalled all that Ku Waowen had said.

"I want you all to be ready to leave at any moment. I don't think this place is stable anymore... or safe for that matter." Lin Mu stated.

Elder Weimin and Jing Luo nodded while the disciples had no disagreements about it. At this point, they would accept anything that Lin Mu would say. This was the level of faith Lin Mu had developed in them with his actions.

Though it wasn't even his original aim.

"S-senior!" It was now that one of the disciples spoke out.

"Mm?" Lin Mu hummed in a questioning tone.

"T-the two elders who died here in the past. You didn't tell us if you found out anything about them. And it doesn't seem like they are here either. We didn't find their remains upstairs either." The disciple said in a nervous tone.

"Ah, that..." Lin Mu responded, and pointed to the old woman. "You can get that out of her. Feel free to use any method." He added.

The disciples understood, and a serious expression appeared on his face. Elder Weimin was already quite angry but had been keeping a calm face for now. Still, his actions showed that he was angry as he quickly grabbed the unconscious old woman's hair and pulled her off to the side.

If it were not for the fact that he knew the old woman was crippled, he would have simply kicked her away. But at this point, that would just obliterate her body and they would not get the information that they wanted.

Elder Weimin knew enough tricks to get information out of someone. Even if he was not part of the disciplinary hall, he had lived long enough to learn quite a few techniques; though some of them might be considered unorthodox and cruel.

Lin Mu though, didn't care about anything and simply headed towards the large formation array in the center of the hall. It had become transparent since the one controlling it had lost it and had become dormant.

Though Lin Mu could still feel its precess there.

~huu~

Lin Mu took a deep breath and let his spirit sense probe the formation array.

~shua~

The runes reappeared and let out a pale yellow glow. It illuminated the relatively dark hall and showed its presence.

"Whoa!" The disciples were surprised to see the formation array.

It was different from any formation array they had come across till now, and it looked very complex to them.

"Heavens! Just how many layers are in there?" Someone exclaimed.

Even Jing Luo furrowed his brows upon seeing the formation array and knew why Lin Mu had rejected his offer.

'Even with the two of us, it would take a week to unravel this. And that's IF we can do that. I don't recognize several of those runes.' Jing Luo thought.

Though after thinking for a bit, he could recall seeing some of those runes in the information Lin Mu had passed on to him on behalf of his master. A serious expression appeared on Jing Luo's face, as he understood just how lacking he truly was.

"There is always a mountain behind a mountain and an ocean bigger than a sea..." Jing Luo muttered.

While he was doing this, the disciples watched on with curiosity as Lin Mu started to act.

"Will we get to see him unraveling it?" A female disciple that was interested in formations asked.

"Perhaps. It will be our great luck!" Another one commented.

But what they saw was completely different from their thoughts.

Lin Mu closed his eyes and brought his two hands together before touching only the finger tips and pulling his palms apart.

~Humm~

A strange humming could be felt in the air and it was made from spirit Qi. The disciples felt their clothes fluttering even though there was no wind in the hall. Then in the next second, Lin Mu Opened his eyes wide and split apart his hand in a wide gesture.

"Meld!" He recited.

~HONG~

Intense spatial fluctuations appeared in the hall and even Elder Weimin had to turn back to look. Keeping his left hand in its position, Lin Mu pulled his right to the center again.

Then extending it to the front like a long sword, he raised it up into the sky.

He took a deep breath and focused before bringing the hand down like a sword.

~SHING~

An almost visible light shot out of his hands like a sword strike and passed through the formation array like a hot knife through butter.

~KACHA~

[Chapter 855 - Sword Qi And True Qi](#)

"Sever!" A low voice was heard from Lin Mu.

The disciples who just watched Lin Mu split apart a Formation array like it was a piece of paper. They didn't know how Lin Mu had done it, but Jing Luo and Elder Weimin had a clue.

'Sword intent? He already has sword intent?' Jing Luo thought to himself.

While Lin Mu had started developing his sword intent a long time ago, most of it was hidden within his attacks and was rarely seen. It would silently increase the power of his attacks whenever he used sword type weapons.

That was also why he used his short sword more often than his other weapons. It was not only a strong weapon on its own, but the extra power from the sword intent made it stronger.

Lin Mu could technically use his sword intent without a sword, but he never did. Simply because it became far too weak to be significant. Of course, it could still cut apart the flesh of a normal person, but a cultivator would be able to resist it with just their normal defenses.

What Lin Mu had done here was slightly different from that. He had learned the limitation of Meld that he had at his current proficiency and knew that if he wanted to manipulate such a complex formation array, it would be very difficult.

After all, it could interfere with his skills with spirit Qi and a formation array usually contained a large amount of it. Thus he could at most affect a few tens of layers at once if he used meld directly.

Thus, to overcome it, he used a different method that he had come up with. After using Meld to 'grab' the space, he used his hand to slash it open using his sword intent. He even used severing heart sutra on top of it to increase the power slightly.

And it truly turned out to be a success.

~Phew~

Lin Mu took a breath of relief and saw the end result.

'It truly did work. The amount of sword intent I could use at once increased as well...' Lin Mu thought to himself.

"Your body has been constantly improving all this time. I reckon you already had the capability to do this, but you simply never had the chance to try it." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"Hmm... after that transformation, I do feel like there are some extra things within me I did not sense before. It's hard to explain them, but they now feel like they've existed for a long time." Lin Mu replied.

"If you were able to further improve your sword intent, it wouldn't be hard for you to condense sword Qi as well. Or more accurately sword spirit Qi, condensing true Sword Qi is beyond what you can do right now." Xukong explained.

"True Sword Qi? There is a difference?" Lin Mu questioned.

"Of course. As you know, there are different forms of Qi in the world. The ones of different qualities, the elemental ones and the derivative one, these are the three types. In the different qualities, you have things like spirit Qi and the Immortal Qi. Then in that, you have the elemental qis and derivative sis.

So there can be fire elemental spirit Qi as well as fire elemental immortal Qi. The same applies to the derivative qi's like Sword Qi." Xukong answered in detail.

"I see. But then what do you mean as True Sword Qi?" Lin Mu asked.

"That is something that comes directly from the sword path. It is not something that one cannot just gain from cultivating normally. It can only be obtained from comprehending the Sword Dao and walking on the Sword path.

True Sword Qi is something that can overpower other types of Qi even if a cultivator is weak." Xukong replied.

"How far does that extend to senior? Like... what can a Qi refining realm cultivator that comprehended True Sword Qi do?" Lin Mu questioned after thinking for a second.

"Hmm... killing someone at the Immortal Realm wouldn't be a problem if someone can truly comprehend and Condense True Sword Qi." Xukong said shocking Lin Mu.

"REALLY?! Then isn't that very strong?" Lin Mu said in a shocked tone.

"It is very strong indeed. But it's not something that anyone can do. A Qi refining realm cultivator gaining True Sword Qi is just a hypothetical situation that would never really occur in the universe.

To even start on the sword path, they would need to condense a Dao Embryo and comprehend the traces of the Sword Dao. Which is something that a cultivator can only do at the Dao Treading realm.

And even then, a Dao Treading Realm cultivator would barely be considered to have started on the sword path. It could not even be said to be one step it; it was simply standing at the beginning point.

Comprehending the Sword Path to a point where one can condense True Sword Qi would take thousands upon thousands of years. There are many steps that come before that, like obtaining sword intent, then refining sword Qi, and many more that can't be explained to you at this stage." Xukong explained in detail.

Hearing all this information, Lin Mu was both intrigued and shocked. He understood just how much he had beyond him and where he stood at this moment.

"Then if the Sword Path has True Sword Qi, do the other paths have their own versions? Like True Demonic Qi or True Beast Qi?" Lin Mu questioned, having comprehended a bit.

"Correct!" Xukong answered. "Every Path will have its own True Qi and it will take comprehending that particular path to gain it. Even gaining True Qi of a single path would be enough to make that person worthy enough to stand on top of the world."

Lin Mu's eyes glittered as he couldn't help but imagine himself in that position one day. It was an attractive dream, but he also knew it wouldn't come easy.. The peak of the cultivation was built on top of harsh hard work and tireless effort.

[Chapter 856 - The Fifth Floor](#)

Having learned new things from Senior Xukong, Lin Mu felt a little better and the slight depressive state he had after the fight had faded away. Learning new things would always fix his mind and help improve his mood.

"You should head on now. It's not good to tarry anymore." Xukong reminded Lin Mu.

"Ah yes!" Lin Mu said and jumped into the gap that had been created in the formation array.

While it seemed like Lin Mu had talked to senior Xukong for a while, in reality, it had barely been five seconds since he split open the formation array, thus it didn't seem that different to the others that were watching.

~shua~

Ten seconds after Lin Mu entered the formation array, it closed up behind it and went back to its normal state. Lin Mu looked at it and nodded his head.

"Just as I thought. The moment meld's effect ended, the split formation array's realigned." Lin Mu muttered.

While it did look like Lin Mu had destroyed the formation array, it was not so. Rather than that, he had simply dislocated them and expanded the space between them. Meld was still working and the sword intent was simply used to force the opening to be created.

Other than that, the fomentation array was intact. What Lin Mu had done here was the same as him ripping open the barrier surrounding the ruins. Expect here the target was a complex formation array

that would cause a lot of damage to him and the surroundings if he attacked it directly, unlike the relatively simple barrier.

In simple words, he got the same result using a different method.

Once Lin Mu was gone and the formation array closed behind him, the disciples were nervous.

"Will he be fine?" A male disciple questioned.

"If he was sure of doing this, he should be fine." Someone answered.

The disciples looked at the person who was none other than Jing Luo and nodded their heads. Here Jing Luo was the closest person to Lin Mu. Of course, this excluded Little Shrubby, but he wasn't exactly a 'Person'.

"Though... is it just me, or did Senior Lin Mu look different?" A male disciple questioned.

"What do you mean?" His companion asked.

"Now that I think of it... he did seem 'bigger'." A female disciple chimed in.

"He did! Didn't he?" The male disciple agreed.

"Nonsense. How can he just grow bigger all of a sudden? You two must be mistaken." Another disciple said in a dismissive tone.

The two disciples who seemed to be in agreement, looked on awkwardly and realized that it did seem unlikely to have happened.

"I think it was just the robes that he was wearing that made it seem like that. He changed them from the ones before." The disagreeing female disciple added.

"Oh yeah, that must be it. Those robes were probably the cause." They said after thinking for a bit.

Jing Luo who had heard this little conversation too, thought over it and felt like Lin Mu was different as well.

'Hang on... his shoulders got wider. They are a bit closer to my own now.' Jing Luo realized.

While the people were having different thoughts and conversations outside of the Formation array, Lin Mu was looking around the fifth floor.

"This is wider than the previous one... though still smaller than the third floor." Lin Mu said as his spirit sense spread around and assessed the area.

He realized that there were some areas where his spirit sense could not enter and was being restricted, similar to the upper floors.

On top of him existed the formation array which formed the roof of the entire floor. Unlike the previous one, it was always active and visible here. Its layers could also be seen far more in detail.

Lin Mu could see run down rooms in front of him. Most of them seemed to be closed, but a few of them had doors that had either crumbled over time or had completely disappeared. He turned back and saw a dimly lit passage at the other end of which he could only see a dark blue sphere.

A cold and unease aura radiated off the sphere, and he felt like he should not approach it carelessly.

"Is that what's being hidden by this tomb?" Lin Mu wondered.

While he felt like he should check it right away, he knew that was not the right choice.

'I should see what else exists here. Going there straight might just be a trap, after all this place was controlled by Kushao for a long time. Who knows what he has done with it.' Lin Mu reckoned.

With that in mind, Lin Mu decided to check the rooms in front of him first. There were easily over fifty rooms here currently and they were all of similar sizes. Walking into the first room that had no door, Lin Mu could see some ruined Stone furniture.

There was what clearly looked like a bed and a shelf carved into the wall itself. Then there was a mottled cloth lying on the floor, which turned to dust the moment Lin Mu stepped onto it.

"Just how old is this stuff?" Lin Mu couldn't help but question.

Having observed that there was nothing in this room, Lin Mu went on to the next one.

'This one still has its door intact.' Lin Mu thought.

He placed his hand on the door handle and pushed it as hard as he could. At first, it was a bit difficult, but once he added some extra force, it finally moved.

~CREAK~

A very rough grating sound was heard and it felt like gravel was being crushed. Dust fell from the door and a couple of seconds later, it finally opened.

The moment Lin Mu stepped into the room, he flared his nose.

"That stinks!" Lin Mu said as he held his breath.

He looked around and saw a similar layout to the previous room, except one addition.. There were a couple of pill bottles kept on the shelf.

[Chapter 857 - A Stinky Pill!](#)

Lin Mu's attention was pulled to the two pill bottles. Not only because they were the main point of interest in this room, but because one of them was emitting the foul smell that was assaulting his nose.

He approached the pill bottles and looked at them closely. The one that was emitting the pungent smell had its cap broken.

"So that's where it's leaking from..." Lin Mu understood and quickly stored the bottle in another container he took out of his ring.

~CLACK~

The container was closed tightly, and the pungent smell stopped after a few seconds.

"Oof! Even with it gone, the stink won't leave my nose." Lin Mu said while wrinkling his nose.

He took a look at the second bottle that was perfectly sealed and saw a single pill that laid in it quaintly. It was a faint white color, with some shades of blue and Grey mixed in that created a ripple pattern.

"Do these two bottles have the same pill?" Lin Mu wondered and looked into the sealed container.

Both the pill bottles had the same shape and form, but the contents were different. One of them had the pill intact while the other one had a sticky liquid in it.

"Seems like that pill decomposed and liquefied," Xukong spoke.

Lin Mu nodded his head and took out a pleasant smelling spirit herb from his ring. It was a small red flower and let out a floral smell that was far better than the stink in his nose right now.

Lin Mu crushed the small flower between his fingers and rubbed it below his nose.

~sniff~

"That's way better!" Lin Mu said, taking a literal breath of relief.

Lin Mu knew of the decomposition of pills. While some alchemical pills could be kept intact for a long time, they needed to be stored in special containers. It was these containers that decided their perishing rate.

If they were made from a high quality material and had formations that prevented them from deteriorating, the pills stored in them would last for many, many years. But even then, these containers had a certain limit to them.

Over time, they would still get weathered and damaged. After a certain point, they would be unable to work properly and the pill would start deterioration. Then there were some pills that can become corrosive due to deterioration and cause further damage to the container they were in.

The stinky bottle was an example of that situation in which the pill had corroded the cap. It would not have been this bad, but due to being enclosed in this room for an indefinite amount of time, the smell only got concentrated.

Perhaps if the room was open, the pill would have been completely gone by this time.

"What kind of a pill could smell this foul after decomposing?" Lin Mu wondered and checked the intact pill.

~Pop~

He opened its cap and rolled out the pill onto his hand. He lightly sniffed it and found it to have no smell.

"Can't tell anything from the smell." Lin Mu said before he probed the pill with his spirit sense.

Upon doing so, he could feel fine and condensed mass of different properties within the pill. They were very hard for him to identify, since he wasn't that proficient in alchemical arts or pill refinement.

Even with the vast number of records that he had read by now, identifying a random pill like this was close to impossible.

"Do you know what pill this is, senior?" Lin Mu questioned.

"No, it could be anything. But if you store it in the ring, I can take a closer look." Xukong answered.

"Alright," Lin Mu responded, and stored it in the ring.

About a minute later, Xukong spoke again.

"I think I have a guess about what this is. Though I might still be wrong." Xukong stated.

"Oh? What is it?" Lin Mu asked.

"It might be a Bone Enameling Pill. There are various versions of this that can have different target effects, though its main function is to make a change to the bones of a cultivator." Xukong replied.

"Change to the bones? Like strengthening them?" Lin Mu asked.

"For some versions, yes. Some are used as an adjunct to enhance the effects of other pills. For example, a Bone Enameling Pill can be used with the common Bone Melding Pill to speed up the process of healing.

Some version of it can even weaken bones, so that special hardening pills can penetrate deep into the bone and transform the bones into a stronger version." Xukong explained.

"Oh, that's rather useful. It'll probably come in use later. If not for me, for others." Lin Mu replied.

"Perhaps... though you can use it as a toxin too. You saw how the other pill ended up, right? It should be the same Bone Enameling pill, but seeing how it is now, it is likely to be a version that weakens the bones of a cultivator.

You can feed it to someone else and their defenses should be weaker." Xukong suggested.

Hearing this, Lin Mu raised his brows, but noted it in his mind. He knew how many enemies he had and how strong they were. He wouldn't be averse to using some underhanded means if it meant he would be able to save the world.

Done with this room, Lin Mu checked the next one. This one did not have a door either and was empty. Though it did not have a bed either, and simply had a stone table and a broken chair that was lying on the ground.

'The other two must have been bedrooms, while this is a study room.' Lin Mu thought as he saw six bookshelves in the room. The bookshelves were empty and only a thick layer of dust was left on them; the books have perished a long time ago.

Shaking his head, Lin Mu checked out ten more rooms, most of which were empty, and the ones that did have something were heavily damaged and useless.. This included a lot of decomposed pills that Lin Mu sealed away in a separate container.

[Chapter 858 - An Octagonal Room And Secret Of The Fountain](#)

It had been about an hour since Lin Mu arrived on this floor and he had gone through over half the rooms that were here.

"Can this even be considered an inheritance ground at this point? All signs point to it not being that..." Lin Mu said, feeling strange.

No matter what room he checked after the second one, they would have nothing but trash and dirt, if not more stinky pills. Those couldn't even be differentiated and just looked like black sludge.

Lin Mu reckoned they had been lucky enough to even find the one Bone Enameling pill in the second room.

'At least I'll have plenty of poison to use in the future...' Lin Mu consoled himself.

He continued to break down five more rooms before he finally came across another object that seemed in a better condition.

"A wooden board?" Lin Mu picked up the dust covered board from a table.

~Huu~

He blew some air on it, and the dust was cleared out. A few deeply carved words could now be seen on the wooden board. The words were a bit rough looking and it looked like someone had carved them with whatever they could get their hands on.

It was certainly not done with a proper tool or a carving knife. Lin Mu flipped the board upside down and read the content.

There were only three words written on it, but they were written in an older script of the Great Zhou Empire. Lin Mu had seen it before and learned it a while ago, thus could read them with ease.

But those three words did not serve to please him.

"Leave... We... Failed..." Lin Mu recited the three words.

The ominous feeling that came from the combination of the three words affirmed the truth of this place in Lin Mu's mind.

"This was not a place that was ever supposed to be opened... was it?" Lin Mu reckoned.

He probed the board with his spirit sense, trying to estimate how old it was or if there was anything else hidden in it. While Lin Mu didn't find anything hidden, he did get a rough approximation of the age of the board.

Lin Mu had at first thought that this might be something left by the sect people who were trapped in the ruins five hundred years ago. Since the room it was in was open from the start, it was a possibility that could not be denied.

But after checking the board, Lin Mu was sure the carving was at least two thousand years old.

"This does not bode well..." Lin Mu spoke.

"It may be time to speed up and end this mission. I do not feel like this is a good venture either now." Xukong agreed.

Lin Mu nodded his head and quickly checked the rest of the rooms. This time, he didn't pay as much attention to detail as before and rushed through all of them. He had already gotten enough proof that whatever was in here was either damaged or useless to him.

But when he arrived in the second last room, he discovered a new layout. The previous rooms were either bedrooms, or study rooms. They were set in an alternate pattern, as if the people that lived here were assigned one bedroom and study room each.

But the second last room was different. It was larger on the side than the other rooms and had an octagonal shape. There were a few stone shelves carved into four of the sides of the room and various tables on the other four sides.

In the center of the room thought there was a octagonal trough. It was very shallow, being only two feet in depth, and was empty. A small spout could be seen in its center from which water must have come out at a certain time in the past.

"An indoor fountain?" Lin Mu muttered and furrowed his brows.

His spirit sense checked the room and found the fountain to be the most peculiar part. His spirit sense could not penetrate it like the other walls of the floor, so he did not know what there was hidden underneath it.

But he could certainly feel a very faint aura coming from the fountain.

Lin Mu thus walked over to the foundation and touched the top. It was then he felt the difference in texture. He lightly pressed and the entire fountain stem sank in.

~KACHA~

Some kind of a mechanism was activated and Lin Mu found the floor rotating beneath him. He too, spun with it and found himself descending into the floor. He immediately flew up, wanting to avoid any trap that might have been set up.

~THUD~

A few seconds later, the sound of stone hitting stone was heard as the floor finally settled. Lin Mu peered into the octagonal hole that had replaced the fountain and could only see the darkness inside.

~spark~

Lin Mu created a small orb of fire and dropped it into the hole. It illuminated the area and allowed him to get a good look at what was below.

"Its... Normal?" Lin Mu was surprised.

Seeing that there was nothing, Lin Mu spread his spirit sense and flew down as well. This was a secret room built under the main one and was about half its size. It was completely empty, other than what looked like a mottled pedestal on the other end.

Lin Mu's eyes lit up as he saw the box that was placed on the pedestal.

"It's actually of a good quality!" Lin Mu took note.

He checked the area once more to ensure there were no traps and approached the box. Lin Mu carefully touched the box before picking it up. It was the size of a common spice box and was slightly heavy, being at least ten kilograms in weight.

Lin Mu knew that there was something good in it, since it was just made of some Light Spirit Oak wood.

'There should be something substantial in it!' Lin Mu thought.

[Chapter 859 - True Gold Body Forging Arts](#)

Discovering the box felt good to Lin Mu, and he got the same feeling as if he had found treasure during the treasure hunts he did when he was a child. It was a common game that the children played and the treasures they would hunt were just some common things like unique looking rocks, candies, and the like.

But the excitement and joy of finding one were still enough to entertain them for a long time. Lin Mu smiled, feeling this and couldn't wait to open the box.

"There is no lock or hinge on it. Guess it is just a normal lid." Lin Mu said before lifting the lid and opening it.

The sound of wood rubbing against wood could be heard before the box was finally opened. Lin Mu's smile and curved eyes soon turned into a frown and narrowed eyes as he observed the item kept in the box.

"This... not more trash." Lin Mu said as he looked at what looked like a ruined book inside it.

The book was made out of an unknown material that had degraded enough to be indistinguishable.

"Ugh..." Lin Mu shook his head and tried to take out the book.

But just as he expected, the book turned to dirt in his hand fell through his fingers. Though in the next second, he touched something hard.

"What?" Lin Mu raised his brows.

~huu~

He blew on the remnants of the book and they flew away like dust, leaving behind a metal sheet. The sheet was slightly smaller in size than the book, but was very dense considering its weight.

"Interesting..." Lin Mu picked up the metal sheet and put the box down on the pedestal.

~Clang~

He lightly tapped the sheet with his finger and it let out a sonorous hum. But at the same time, he felt something on the other side of the metal sheet. Lin Mu flipped it over and saw fine words carved into it.

"Dao script? There's actually Dao Script here!" Lin Mu was surprised.

Dao script was something that was incredibly rare in the Xiaofan world. By now Lin Mu had understood that if there was anything that had Dao Script, it would have to be either very ancient or must have come from a different world.

It was a mystery that would only be solved once Lin Mu learned what was written on the metal sheet.

After reading the first few lines, Lin Mu's eyes lit up.

"A Technique! It's actually a technique!" Lin Mu exclaimed.

He continued reading it and learned more about it. And by the time he reached the end of it, his expression had become a bit still.

"What's the matter?" Xukong questioned.

"You take a look as well, senior." Lin Mu replied and let his memories enter the common mind space.

Xukong took a quick look and was surprised, too.

"A Body cultivation technique?" Xukong understood.

"Indeed. But its requirements and method of practicing it are very strange if not downright deadly." Lin Mu spoke.

Xukong finished reading it by the time Lin Mu spoke and was in agreement too.

"This looks like one of the more primitive body cultivation techniques, but at the same time not." Xukong said.

"Maybe it is an inferior version derived from some top tier technique?" Lin Mu guessed.

"That could certainly be possible. Though you can still use it. You are in need of elemental ones, aren't you?" Xukong said.

Lin Mu nodded his head and thought that it was at least another step towards progress.

"True Gold Body Forging Arts: Refine the gold, Refine the body, Quench the flesh, Coat the bones; Become Impenetrable!" Lin Mu recited the title and the intro of the technique.

At first, it sounded simple, but the latter explanation of the technique showed him just how dangerous and complex it was. The technique involved the use of gold, to temper one's body.

One would have to melt gold that was twice as heavy as their weight and refine it till it was half the volume of what it initially was. They would then have to apply the liquid gold over their skin and let it be burned away.

Once that was done and the gold hardened after cooling, they would have to use their own strength to bend the gold without using any other body part or other forms of assistance.

For example, if they applied it on their right arm, they would curl it to bend the goal. If they were successful in doing this, it meant that they had succeeded in the first stage. And if they couldn't do it at start, they would keep the gold as it is and cultivate while focusing on that part of the body.

They had to do this until it was strong enough to bend the gold. Only if they succeeded, could they repeat it for the second time. They would have to do it over and over again, until their entire body had gone through the gruesome process.

Once that was done, they could move on to the next stage, which was to cut open their flesh and coat their own bones with the gold. But this time the gold would have to be four times their weight and had to be refined till it was just a quarter of its starting volume.

By that time, it would become extremely dense and even a finger nail size piece would be as heavy as a kilogram. Not to mention the process of pouring liquid gold onto one's bones, just cutting open one's flesh was a horrifying thing that most would not want to do.

The same process would be repeated till all the bones had gained a coat of gold. Once this was done, they would wait till all their wounds healed. This was where the process relied greatly on luck.

If they healed, they could proceed. But if it didn't, they would fail and nothing could be done at that point.. The gold in their body would either become a crippling hindrance to them, or they would just die from despair.

[Chapter 860 - A Cruel Technique](#)

If one found out their path was cut off after the struggle of bearing the first and second stages of the True Gold Body Forging Arts, they would prefer to be dead than live to be in pain longer.

Lin Mu couldn't help but shudder at reading it all.

'And it's not even the final step...' Lin Mu thought as his gaze went to the last two lines.

The final step started with the refinement of the gold as well. But this time, one needed forty times their weight in gold, which then needed to be reduced to just ten percent of its volume.

Once this was done, they would have to jump into the molten gold and be completely submerged in it. They would then stay it in and let the gold cool and harden. This was the most decisive step in the technique.

Ninety nine percent of the people that reached this point would die, and only one percent would live. Once the gold was completely solidified, it would be roughly in the shape of the body with the outline of the container within which it was melted.

The cultivator that was within the gold would then have to further cultivate while being encased in the gold. They would have to learn to 'breathe' through the gold. Once they succeeded in that, they would then start to see that the gold was responding to them.

Eventually, if they kept it up, the gold would start to shrink and if they were successful, the gold would have completely been absorbed into their body. Their skin would gain a golden sheen, and their defenses would skyrocket.

It would make them impenetrable!

Though Lin Mu had doubts about just how 'impenetrable' one would become. He had read a lot and gained a lot of knowledge from Senior Xukong and knew just how many powers there were in the world.

There was no power that could claim to be number one in the universe, and there would always be something that could counteract it.

"Even if all this works out... just what kind of a defense would they gain in the end? Would it be enough to sustain an attack from an Immortal?" Lin Mu couldn't help but question.

~Sigh~

A long sigh escaped his lips and he wondered if it was even possible for him to practice something like this. And as he thought of this, he grasped a few more things.

"Hang on... the amount of gold that this takes... even if we consider a conservative amount and take the weight of a cultivator as 100 kilograms, the initial amount they would need would be 200 kilograms.

The subsequent stage would take 400 kilograms and the final stage would need 4000 kilograms!

The final total came to about 4600 kilograms!" Lin Mu calculated.

While Lin Mu certainly had more than enough gold to attempt this, he understood that it was not a technique that just any cultivator could even think to afford.

"You're wrong." Xukong suddenly spoke.

"I'm wrong? Where?" Lin Mu asked.

"After the first step, they would apply the gold to their skin. That would add 200 kilograms to their initial 100 kilograms, taking it to 300. Then the second step would need 1200 kilograms.

And the third and final stage would need 40 times that which is 48,000 kilograms of gold." Xukong replied.

Hearing this, Lin Mu felt lost and tried to reread the entire thing. After doing that a couple of times his expression fell.

"This is vile!" Lin Mu said in a tone of discomfort.

"No wonder so many would fail this technique! They would get the measurements wrong from the very start!" Lin Mu added.

"Indeed. It's a clever trick of words that can't be understood with ease. While it looks like the technique is very harsh on the body, that's not all, it is also harsh on the mind. One would not only have to be physically strong but also mentally, so that they would pick up on the trickery at the start.

Only that would grasp it correctly would succeed in the end. As for the ones that made a mistake at the start, they would be forever doomed to fail." Xukong stated.

Lin Mu frankly felt a little terrified of whoever made this body cultivation technique. After all, in order to make a technique like this, one would have had to go through many trials and errors.

Lin Mu had learned very well how difficult it was from the Nameless Technique of the Lost immortal.

"Its creator would have to be many times harsher on himself than others to be able to devise something like this. His willpower must be simply... undying." Lin Mu muttered.

While thinking of this, another facet of the technique struck Lin Mu.

"Hang on... the weight of the gold... it's increase with each step and stays with their body. Then doesn't that mean that by the end of it... they would be nearly 50 tons in weight?" Lin Mu analyzed.

"Possibly. Though it is not something that's too unnatural in the world of cultivation. There are plenty of beasts that are heavier than that, not to mention they wouldn't even have to have that high of a cultivation base." Xukong added.

"Oh right! With the size of Xiaobao he should be at least twice that weight." Lin Mu recalled.

"Exactly. Plus, if they are really cultivating through each stage steadily, their bodies would have already gotten used to that weight. Living with that much weight would be nothing but a natural thing for them at that point." Xukong explained.

Lin Mu felt the entire session to be very enlightening though now he didn't know what to do with the technique. He was obviously going to keep it with him, but the actual question was about his Five Treasures realm cultivation.

He didn't know if this body cultivation technique could even be used for it or was even suitable for it.. While Senior Xukong asked Lin Mu to ponder on it for some time on his own later, it was still not confirmed whether it was useful.